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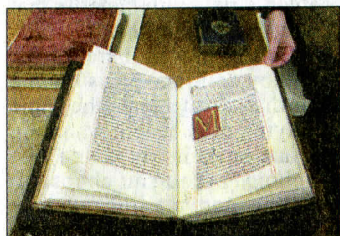
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PATRIOTTALON

University of Texas at Tyler

YOUR STUDENT-RUN MEDIA OUTLET SINCE 1976

March 19, 2013



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Softball team off to hot start



»FAST TRACK

3-year degree program to be new option for freshmen

Victor Texcucano
Managing Editor

Students looking to expedite the college process now have an option to do so with the announcement of accelerated degree programs in eight different majors.

Majors within the accelerated degree tracks include accounting, finance, health studies, human resource development, kinesiology, management, marketing and technology.

These newly announced programs allow students the convenience of completing a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in just three years, said Dr. Harold Doty, College of Business and Technology dean. The programs include a summer schedule that mostly is online, he said.

The three-year program came to fruition through a joint effort across the University, said Dr. Scott Marzilli, assistant vice president for academic innovation and student success.

The idea for the accelerated degree plans was being thought of in two different departments at the University, Marzilli said.

"There were two places working on it simultaneously," he said. "Neither group knew it was happening. When we came together, (we learned) we were doing the same thing."

Doty said the "soft" launch of the program began

ONLINE POLL

Would you take 12 semester hours each summer if it meant graduating in three years? Cast your vote at PatriotTalon.com.

'It's just not fair'

Student launches petition to save brother's life



Story by Morgan Jones and Austin Countryman
Photos by Victor Texcucano



Morgan Blake was tired of sitting around hoping for the best. Her brother's health was at risk and she

» HIGHER EDUCATION

New standards could phase out low-producing fields of study

Rhiannon Holmes
Staff Writer

Some low-producing degree programs may be in danger of being phased out if a state advisory board votes to increase graduate requirements.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board met at the end of January and tabled a vote to raise the number of graduates that must complete each degree program, said Dr. John Lamb, president of the Faculty Senate.

The next meeting of the THECB, a board of regional representatives appointed by the governor, will be in April.

The vote was tabled due to the absence of one of the members, and as of now they are not moving forward, Provost Alisa White said.

The THECB'S recommendation to increase the threshold for low-producing degree programs could lead to the termination or evolution of some programs of study, Lamb said.

Currently, the standards require undergraduate programs to produce 25 graduates in five years, graduate programs to produce 15 graduates in five years and doctoral programs to produce 10 graduates in five years, Lamb said.

The proposed change would increase those numbers to 40, 25 and 15 respectively.

White said these changes have been debated for several years.

ONLINE

See stats for University majors that produce few graduates.

PROGRAMS » 4



Top: Seth Blake (bottom right) poses next to his sister Morgan, a University student who is raising awareness about her brother's illness. Their parents Mike and Kim Blake stand behind them. **Above:** Seth pricks his finger before receiving an insulin treatment.

brother's health was at risk and she wanted to help. The sophomore vocal performance major started actively gaining support for her brother, Seth, who needs medication for his Type 1 diabetes with an insulin-like growth factor 1 deficiency that could be fatal.

Increlex, a medication that helps him grow at a normal rate, costs \$25,000 a month and his family said their insurance company refuses to pay for it.

Morgan started a petition on change.org with the goal of raising awareness for her brother's case.

"Mom had just sent her third appeal to get the medication paid for and they had rejected it. She was really upset and dad was really upset and they were like, 'Oh my gosh, what are we going to do now,'" Morgan said. "So I thought, why not just start a petition? I honestly didn't think it was going to go very far. It was just something to do to help."

In August, the petition went live online and by March 18 they reached 102,459 signatures. They still lack 47,541 signatures to hit their next

marker to be a step closer to making the insurance company pay for the necessary medication.

"It's just not fair," Morgan said. "It's like there is a medication out there to save someone's life and let him have the same opportunity as everyone else, we just can't give it to you because it's just too much money for our company to pay for, or you don't qualify."

In August 2011, within a matter of days Seth went from being a normal kid to a diabetic with the challenge of adjusting to a new lifestyle.

SETH » 5

» TRAFFIC RELIEF

Toll 49 could cut commute time

Route might help students that live west of Tyler

Terry Britt
News Editor

Commuter traffic relief may be on the way with the opening of a major section of Toll 49, also known as Loop 49, west of Tyler on March 29.

However, any benefit for University students and employees in taking that route likely will depend on where they live. For some like Jan Harp, an acquisitions assistant at the Robert R. Muntz Library, there really is no advantage to traveling Toll 49 toward the University.

Harp, who lives a short distance

east of the toll road, said the road's alignment is all wrong for her to find it a worthy route to and from the University.

"As the crow flies from my house, Johnny Manziel could throw a football and hit Loop 49," she said. "That being said, I never use it. The way Loop 49 is designed (is) it comes around through the Gresham area, which is the part I live on. ... It actually takes me at an angle away from where I want to go. It's actually longer for me to use Loop 49."

TOLL 49 » 4



TALON » PHOTO BY VICTOR TEXCUCANO

Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass speaks at a March 2 event celebrating the transfer of ownership of Toll 49 to the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority.

ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

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Academic calendar

» See an exclusive online story about changes to the academic calendar coming this fall.



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Spend time wisely to avoid regret



FLYING BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS DANIELLE HABERY

There is a sickness, a disease if you will, that rots away time.

This illness is inside every one of us. It comes hand in hand with responsibility. It's called procrastination. No cure exists.

When it hits you, it might take every ounce of motivation in you to get off the couch. Or in some cases, you'll have enough energy to do 10 other things that have no priority instead of doing the one thing you need to do.

My grandpa always told my mom, "you would have been a good procrastinator but you put it off."

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, because I got it bad. I do great with getting to class on time, but after I get home and sprawl out on the couch, it takes a lot to revive me.

Mark Twain once said, "Eat a live frog every morning, and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day."

I always interpreted that as a "looking at the glass half full" kind of thing. But after stumbling upon a self-help book that shows you 21 ways to stop procrastinating, I saw it another way.

"Eat That Frog!" by Brian Tracy compares all of your responsibilities to frogs.

Each task you have to do is like a frog, and when you know you have to eat one, you pick the biggest, nastiest one first so that everything after that won't be so bad.

As students, we have gotten so used to this perpetual cycle of being behind in our school work and catching up.

I sometimes dread going to class or a meeting not because being there is horrible,

but because I know my day is on a schedule. My life is set to a timer. There are very few days that I don't have to be somewhere or do something at a certain time.

Dreading responsibility might be more than an issue with procrastination though. We are demand-resistant. Those of us that feel this way have a ravenous craving for unlimited freedom.

I dream of white sand beaches and warm summer breezes, a place where time stops. Island time has no stress or anxiety attached to it.

I've lived in the mountains of northern California where time was similar. But there, working hard off the land is the way to survive. This brings back a whole slew of responsibility and schedules.

To make it through the harsh winter, inhabitants have things to do from sun up to sun down during the other seasons. That was not the life for me.

I know that most of us here in Tyler aren't going to just pick up and move to Aruba. All

of us are here, bearing this heavy schedule because we want more for ourselves. Higher education allows us a chance to get a good job making acceptable pay with benefits that should support us and our families.

I understand all of this and am here for the same reasons. But boy do I take pleasure in a blissful daydream that always ends the same way — with me laying on a beach, watching the sunset with a margarita in my hand.

Life is full of choices. You can choose to procrastinate, sitting and waiting silently while your life rots away with passed opportunities.

We've all already made the choice to set the bar high above our heads and those of our peers by enrolling in the University. But don't choose to follow your own skewed agenda, recklessly ignoring the fact that you're voluntarily boarding a train destined to crash.

Not all choices are life changing but many are. Actively choose to change it for the better.

Stressing about the little things a recipe for disaster



THE WAY I SEE IT ANDY TAYLOR

If you've ever wondered the difference between a freshman and a senior, I invite you to take a look inside my backpack.

There was a time not so long ago in which it would have been filled with a few binders adorned with clean labels. There might be a book full of highlighter marks and tags identifying important pages, and there would be a small bag full of pens and pencils.

Fast-forward three years and you'll find something different.

My notebooks are labeled with courses I took last year. I didn't buy the books for all of my classes, and if I dig around past crumpled notebook paper I might have a cheap pen I found in the newsroom.

My college career is almost over and I'm starting to feel it.

The approach I have developed toward school has taught me a valuable lesson. When I stopped obsess-

ing about the minute details, I realized those things weren't necessary to be successful.

One thing I've learned is that you have to look at the big picture.

It's easy to get caught up memorizing lists and terms to the point you gloss over the main idea. In a history class, for example, you may remember all of Woodrow Wilson's 14 points but forget which countries were involved in World War I.

I made those mistakes early in college, but I've learned to not stress too much. If you can explain what your professor is trying to convey in your own words, you'll probably do well. Go to class and turn in your assignments. The rest will work itself out.

This laid-back attitude would be unrecognizable to my former self, but it's a perspective I wish I would have developed sooner.

Stress is a poison that researchers have proven to be particularly harmful for college students. *The Washington Post's* Campus Overload blog listed five facts in a 2011 story that highlight this point:

1. Stress can make smart people do stupid things.

2. The human body doesn't discriminate between a big stressful event and a little one.

3. Stress can become your new norm.

4. Stress can be controlled.

5. Stress less by loving what you study.

The first point perhaps is the most powerful.

Fretting about every minute detail of school — or your life — will distract your attention away from the bigger things that matter most. And because some things are beyond your control, any attempt at perfection is doomed to fail.

Be proud of what you can do and accept what you can't.

If you're a freshman, it's best you learn this now and not in your last semester. It doesn't mean slacking and becoming a bad student — just don't worry so much about being a perfect student.

In the end, you probably will be more successful and you definitely will be more relaxed.

You have the rest of your life to worry about the little things. Why start now?

CAMPUSVOICE

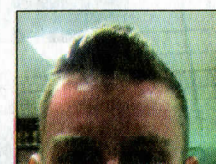
Would you be open to longer classes if it meant a shorter semester?

Read an online exclusive story about changes to the academic calendar at PatriotTalon.com



No, because that would mean less hours in the day to get things taken care of and to work."

Carly Horvath
Sophomore nursing major



Yes, I would like longer classes

Don't take yourself too seriously; humor can be the best medicine



THROUGH MY OWN EYES

ANTWANISE JACKSON

When I first moved to Tyler, I was excited and thrilled to be starting a new chapter in my life.

However, the more I get to see Tyler for what it really is, the more I realize that I am such a fish out of water.

I had no idea that East Texas would be so conservative.

This was a complete culture shock for me, because where I'm from, in good old Streetman, Texas, it was common to see a group of people dancing just for entertainment.

A neighborhood fish fry was considered the social gathering of the year, kids went hunting for fun and seeing someone riding a 4-wheeler to the store without a T-shirt or shoes was just the norm.

That's just how we get down in the country.

In my opinion, people over here are too uptight.

I think it's time we brought a little bit of the country excitement to Tyler.

I'm encouraging everyone out here to grab life by the bull horns and run with it.

If you're wondering how to go about this, fear not East Texans, I'm here to help.

You can add some rural flavor to your daily routine by following just three simple rules.

First, don't take yourself too seriously.

Loosen up because, being "Serious Sally" is going to drive you crazy and you might have to start saving up for that Botox fund to get rid of those worry wrinkles.

Relax, because being so uptight all the time will start to make you seem robotic.

Second, learn to take a joke and live a little.

It's okay to have some fun every

now and then. Laughter can be an awesome thing.

Hey, it even helps burn off some fat. I bet you didn't know that laughing 10 to 15 minutes a day can burn 10 to 40 calories.

Remember, humans love humor, so bask in it.

Lastly, do you.

This means don't be afraid to let it all hang out. Normal is just a setting on a washing machine.

I think our own individual uniqueness makes the world a lot more interesting.

Be yourself and don't care what anyone else thinks.

We've seen shows like Duck Dynasty and Swamp People.

Does it look like anyone on those shows cares about anyone else? Take a note from them and just live and be happy.

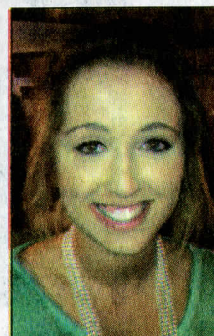
I challenge all of you to adapt a more rural way of approaching each day.

I promise you if you follow these simple steps you will enjoy life so much more.



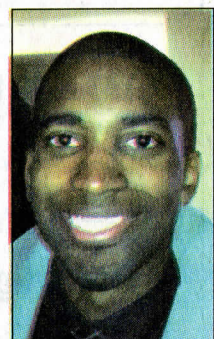
if it meant a shorter semester."

» Hayden Harrington
Freshman business management major



» A shorter semester (and) fall break would be awesome, especially since I enjoy most of my classes anyway."

» Angelica Presti
Sophomore mass communication major



» Yes, because it would increase holidays and give more time for family visits and vacations."

» Joel Hunt
Senior psychology major

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Let your **voice** be heard



TALON » PHOTO BY HUNTER HARDING

The Patriot Singers, directed by Cameron Rose, performed at First Presbyterian Church in Tyler on March 6. Their final performance will be May 4 at the church.

Vocalist fulfills passion, performs with Patriot Singers

Misty Butler
Staff Writer

Junior music education major Candice Dugat's singing career has led her from the rolling deserts of Oatar in the Middle East

“It's something I love to do. ... It's just a team making beautiful sound.”

rolling deserts of Qatar in the Middle East to performing with the University's Patriot Singers.

Dugat began singing in Dayton, Texas in her local church worship band at the age of 13. The home-schooled teen began to find inspiration in music through worship.

"I can recall my parents spending a lot of money on my core curriculum being home-schooled, so I wasn't involved with any other musical activity," she said.

A few short years later, Dugat's family moved thousands of miles away to the Middle Eastern country of Qatar. Qatar is bordered by Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula.

Her father's job in the oil industry made for a big change for Dugat.

In Doha, Qatar, she attended an American school and joined a choir program for the first time.

She learned new styles of music there, much different from the contemporary style she sang in church.

"I was in a bit of a culture shock and music helped me stay grounded when I was there," Dugat said. "It's something that has always been apart of me."

She lived in Qatar for two years and graduated from the American high school.

In 2012, when Dugat decided on a musical career, she auditioned to be a part of the Patriots Singers at the University. She received a scholarship and is enjoying bringing her unique background to the group.

"It's something I love to do, its fun being a part of a group," Dugat said. "It's just a team making beautiful sound."

The University's choir groups include the Patriot Singers and the University Chorale.

Patriots Singers is an audition-only group for both music and non-music majors. Yearly scholarships are awarded to Patriot Singers.

The group performs repertoire from sacred Renaissance works to contemporary vocal jazz. Patriots Singers act as musical ambassadors for the University at numerous community and regional performances.

The University Chorale is a music group open to students, staff and faculty. No audition is required.

To join, a student must register for the class and schedule a meeting with the director. The informal meeting is to place each voice in a specific singing part within the chorale.

"No prior experience for the University Chorale is required, just a desire to participate and to learn the music," said Cameron Rose, director of choral activities and assistant professor of music.

Both groups combined to perform in the Annual Masterworks performance on March 6 at First Presbyterian Church in Tyler.

The first masterwork performed was "Gloria," by Vivaldi, a Baroque piece from the 1700s.

"Gloria" is taken from the book of Luke when the angels said Glory to God in the highest peace goodwill to men," Rose said. "It is performed in 12 separate pieces of music that all work together."

The second work is Franz Schubert's "Mass in G."

"This piece is from the Renaissance period," Rose said. "It comes from the 1800s during the Romantic period where melodies are slower and more lyrical. So there's a good contrast between the two pieces."

The choirs offer a social aspect for singers as well. The Patriot singers and the University Chorale meet to practice multiple times a week and quickly form a bond, Rose said.

"The groups are very much a team. We are very welcoming to new people to join us and they very quickly feel integrated into the group not only as a class but as a social unit," Rose said.

"The people in the Patriot Singers are just as amazing," senior vocal music education major Melody Rich said. "I've made so many irreplaceable friends and it will be tough graduating in May and not being with them."

"Everyone makes you feel like your part of their music family," freshman music education major Eric Ware said.

The choirs will perform in a final spring performance at First Presbyterian Church at 6:00 p.m. on May 4.

Auditions for the Patriot Singers will be held the week of April 1.

Time slots for auditions will be posted for sign up the last week of March outside Braithwaite Recital Hall. Students will need to prepare a piece of music and popular music is not recommended. For more information, email cameron_rose@uttyler.edu.

Dugat anticipates using her experiences and techniques gained as a Patriot Singer to further her career.

She hopes to open a private music studio for children. She will reach out to home-schooled children who, like her, didn't get to explore music in typical classroom settings.

"Just being in a group like this gives me a unique experience for the future. I want to help encourage students so knowing what kind of things people look for in choir type groups can help others," Dugat said. "Singing makes you feel good about yourself and I want to use that to help people feel better about themselves."

Student looks to showcase oldest books in Muntz Library

Alex Williams
Staff Writer

Daniel Parker came across a rare find in the University's Robert R. Muntz Library bookshelves. This find is one that not many students have discovered and he hopes to change that.

He found ancient, original-print books, some dating back hundreds of years.

Parker, the vice president of the Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society, was taking a tour of the University library last semester when he was shown the archives and asked the question, "What is the oldest book?"

Samantha Winn, the archives assistant, then talked to the Webb Historical Society about taking a tour of the archives. Parker quickly took notice of the historical books after his tour with Terra Bianchi, the University librarian.

"I just gave him a tour of the archives, talked about our collections, you know what we do down here with preserving the history of the University," Bianchi said. "We have special collections which are these rare books."

Parker said he wanted to get more people involved, and became passionate about the historical significance

cance of the books.

"I took some pictures of it, started showing it around to some of the history professors seeing if we could figure out what it was," Parker said.

Parker has been working with Bianchi and Winn to find out more information about the old books and update the archives catalogue.

"It's not like we discovered them—they've been here, they've known about them, and what I've been trying to do is ... figure out the provenance of them, trying to figure out what exactly they are ... (how) they came to be here," Parker said. "There are a lot of questions surrounding them and that's what we have been working towards, is answering those questions."

The oldest book on record in the archives is a Roman history book that dates back to 1532. The book was commissioned by the Bishop of Switzerland and is printed on parchment paper.

"I believe there are ... five copies left in the world. Two of them are in Germany," Parker said. "There are five copies left in the world and we have one here at UT Tyler."

However, this isn't the only old book in the archives. Although many of the books only date back to the 1800s, the oldest have been pulled



TALON PHOTO BY ALEX WILLIAMS

The Genealogy of the Family of Philip III is one of the oldest books located in the Robert R. Muntz Library archives.

from the shelves to be specially preserved and displayed.

The archives have not seen much traffic lately. There are few who have seen the books or any of the other parts of the archives, Parker said.

"People aren't coming here," he

said. "They don't know it's here."

Bianchi and Winn are aware of the archives' lack of attention. Because of Parkers efforts, the archives are starting to attract interest.

"I think like the funniest story we always tell is that a student came

down here asking why all the buildings look the same and we have that documentation," Bianchi said. "We can tell why they look like that, why the lakes are here, why there are so many trees. We have the entire history of the University down here ... and Daniel has been awesome at getting faculty and students interested in what we're doing down here. It's been great."

The archives are not only a source for books, but also for different artifacts surrounding the history of the University, dating back to the University's origins.

"We have copies of all the student newspapers, we have some of the original photographs taken for the *(Patriot) Talon*, we have records for a lot of student organizations and departments all over campus," Winn said. "We are kind of this storage unit for all of the history that is created on and around this campus, and people just don't necessarily know."

None of the archives are in circulation. You must go to the archives section of the library on the bottom floor to view the history.

The archives are open to the public Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be found on the web at facebook.com/MuntzArchives and twitter.com/MuntzArchives.

3 YEARS

FROM PAGE 1

last summer, but the official launch will be in the fall.

He said that while students are already interested in participating in the accelerated tracks, the depart-

ments cannot fully guarantee the availability of required courses until the fall.

Marzilli said the accelerated degree tracks would be financially beneficial to University students.

"I think one of the things every student needs to think about — and parents — is that for every year you stay in school, that's one (less year) you could be in the workforce, start-

ing your career," he said. "So if you can graduate a full year earlier, then you're basically starting your career that full year earlier."

Doty said the three-year program also would help students save money and begin earning pay, something important during the current economic times.

In the fourth year that a traditional student would still be in school pay-

ing tuition, books, room and board, Doty said, students who take advantage of the accelerated degree programs can begin making a year's salary.

It also would be beneficial for students who have plans to go to graduate school to cut down the time they are in school, he said.

"For a student, it means that you gain one full year (of pay), at a time

when it's important," he said. "Instead of still going to college and not making money, they'll get whatever their starting salary is for an extra year."

Doty said that while the cost for tuition and books would remain the same throughout a four-year or three-year plan, the savings would come in the fourth year, by not having to pay room and board.

PROGRAMS

FROM PAGE 1

The THECB has chosen not to consider the threshold increases at this time, said Dr. Dennis Cali, chairman of the Department of Communication and University representative on the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee.

If the requirement is raised, programs that fail to meet these standards would result in one of three scenarios. The programs could be put on a two-year probation and given the opportunity to increase their number of graduates; the programs could be renamed or consolidated with another program on campus; or the programs could be phased out completely.

This means students who want to be part of a low-producing program would have to travel to a larger school, and in some cases, move out of state entirely.

The THECB has suggested that cutting out smaller pieces of the educational pie will save universities money.

"From the universities I've spoken with who have lost programs, no cost saving was done," Lamb said.

In 2011, the THECB voted to phase out 56 degree programs that failed to attract enough majors. Institutions voluntarily cut an additional 145 programs that the board defined as underperforming.

"But I'm happy that low-producing programs at UT Tyler won't have — at least not right now — an added pressure imposed on them from the (coordinating board) to increase production," Cali said.

If the programs did face that pressure, prospective students could be driven to other schools, possibly in other states, Lamb said.

The estimated financial loss for the state of Texas due to program closures would be more than \$4.9 million, Lamb said. This would include revenue from tuition, room and board, fees and other spending.

"When we establish thresholds at disproportionate levels, we're setting up universities for failure," Lamb said. "Ten students at The University of Texas at Tyler is not equivalent to 10 students at The University of Texas at Austin."

The coordinating board reports that in the 2006 and 2010 periods, the programs slated for closure graduated 1.7 percent of the state's physics majors and 0.7 percent of its science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates.

The geographical area that produced these graduates are areas that are rural and produce a high number of minority graduates, Lamb said.

"We believe that it is extremely important to retain the current threshold for the number of program student graduates while continuing to assist universities in increasing their program production," Lamb said.

TOLL 49

FROM PAGE 1

Harp added this is especially true since the city of Tyler recently completed the Grande Boulevard extension project, which is now a faster route for her.

A glance at a map of Toll 49 quickly will show what areas its route would best serve in getting to the University and the south side of Tyler in general.

Those who live to the west and southwest of the city may find a time savings worth the daily toll fees.

Harp said the toll road does carry one advantage for her and anyone else traveling along that side of Smith County — the road connects with South Broadway at the newer retail development area.

"If you're going to Buffalo Wild Wings or the Carmike movie theater, it is much more convenient to go by the loop than to come through town and all the traffic," she said.

The longest section of the 26-mile toll road project, connecting it from State Highway 31 to Interstate 20 near Lindale is estimated to be opened to traffic on March 29, according to a news release earlier this month from the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA).

Also, the toll road currently is a two-lane, undivided highway, although a widening to a four-lane divided highway is planned. The closest the loop gets to the University at present is State Highway 110 (Troup Highway), about five miles south of campus.

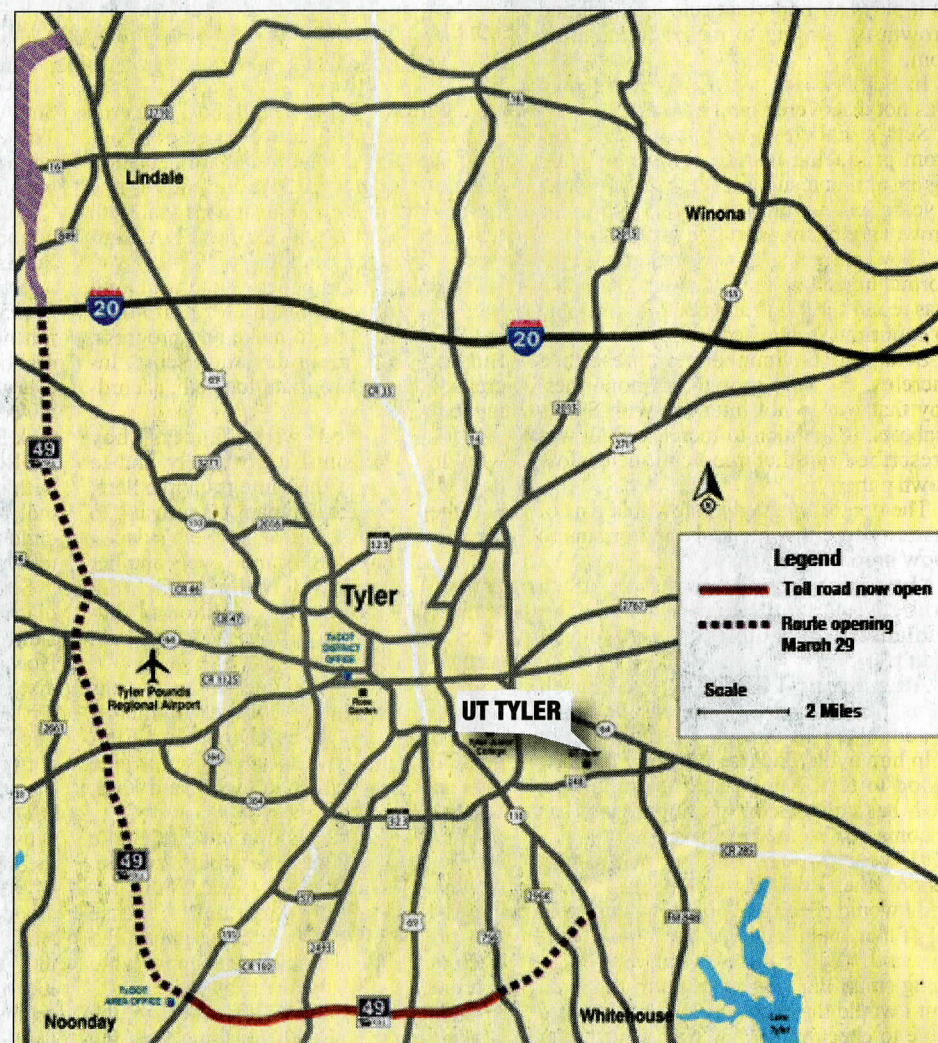
The connection to the interstate harkens back to the days of the earliest discussions of Toll 49, all the way back in the 1970s, Harp noted.

"The main purpose back when they were first talking about it was commercial. ... It was to get all the big trucks out of the city. Those trucks coming off the interstate could get on that Loop 49 and go around to wherever was closest to where they were going and then come in," Harp said.

Vicki Betts, reference librarian at Muntz Library and a lifelong Tyler resident, confirmed the long timeline from conception to the construction, which first began nearly 10 years ago.

"It is not going to be an advantageous route for everyone, but I think they got it in as close as they could have (to Tyler) and not have to go to the expense of bulldozing up some prime neighborhoods," Betts said.

The route



TALON ♦ COURTESY OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Harp added that the loop's presence — and the traffic it brings — could have the effect of spurring business growth along its corridor and benefit several smaller towns and communities nearby.

"I think one of the things it is going to benefit are those smaller towns west of Tyler and south of I-20, because you have to get off the interstate anyway to get to them and for trucks and stuff to get off and hit that loop and come around and then cut over. I think they are going to get a good

benefit from it," she said.

For those who think they might utilize Toll 49 on a regular basis, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) offers the TxTag, a decal that is affixed near the inside rearview mirror of a vehicle.

The TxTag is basically a prepaid account and tolls are deducted from the balance automatically.

More information on the TxTag and options to purchase one can be found at www.txtag.org.

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RCMI

SETH

FROM PAGE 1

With only a few days before the start of the fifth grade, Seth had to adjust to new diabetic practices. He was placed on a strict diet and had to get used to pricking his fingers before every meal and snack.

A year after his diagnosis, Seth and his family had to face a new health complication. Seth not only has Type 1 diabetes, but also insulin-like growth factor 1 deficiency, a condition that inhibits his physical growth.

IGFD causes slow growth of the body and keeps organs, tissues and muscles from developing properly. Typically, the condition is found in infants and toddlers, as it plays an important role in childhood growth, according to magic foundation.com.

In Seth's case, the growth deficiency was not discovered until he was 12.

Seth's diabetes prevents his pancreas from producing insulin. After balancing his insulin and sugar levels for more than a year, Seth's mother noticed a halt in his growth and mentioned it to his doctor.

They charted his growth and noticed his normal trajectory came to a halt. Seth then was tested for IGFD and doctors were able to confirm it in January 2012.

Seth's doctor immediately prescribed Increlex, the only growth hormone therapy that would not interfere with Seth's diabetes. In addition to Increlex, Seth was prescribed another medication to slow down puberty.

The doctors wanted to slow that part of maturity to allow his body and organs to grow properly.

"I wasn't really scared of shots," Seth said. "I felt a little nervous. I thought I might hit something wrong, which I didn't."

After a year of having to give himself shots, Seth got a Medtronic insulin pump to administer his insulin. This still doesn't help him avoid pricking his finger to draw blood to test. After years of doing this, Seth has calluses on his fingers and has become accustomed to the burden.

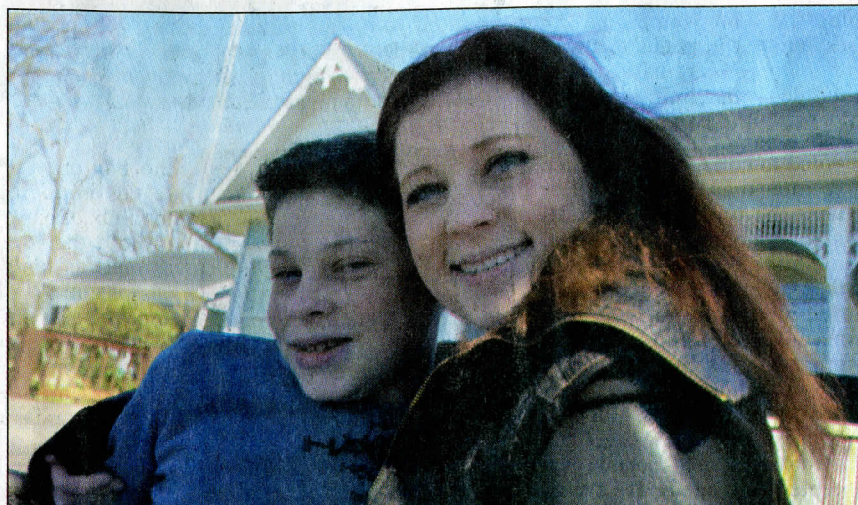
"I went through this period in high school when I was having low blood sugar and I would check and prick my finger and all of that, and oh my gosh it hurts," Morgan said. "You wouldn't think that something small like that would hurt that bad. But I would throw a fit every time I would have to check mine, and Seth is just over there doing it 10 times a day like it's no big deal."

Since starting Increlex, Seth has seen tremendous progress in his growth. The medication helped him grow 5 inches in height and gain more than 20 pounds.

His concentration ability and academics improved as well, his parents said.

"I have a lot more energy after taking Increlex," Seth said.

The problem the Blake family now faces is their insurance company refuses to pay for the medication, which costs \$25,000 per month.



TALON PHOTO BY VICTOR TEXCUCANO

Seth Blake poses next to his sister, sophomore vocal performance major Morgan Blake, who is raising awareness of her brother's life-threatening condition.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, Increlex would be most appropriate with a height standard deviation score of 3 or greater. Seth currently is at a 2.8 deviation score. This means that Seth was 1/8 inch too tall for the FDA standards for the medication.

If the Blake family decided to wait until Seth had a deviation score of 3, it might have been too late to make any progress. But with his current deviation score, Increlex is not appropriate for Seth, according to the FDA.

"If diagnosed with cancer, they wouldn't wait until it got really bad to treat you. That is the same principle here, but (the insurance company) is refusing to view it that way," said Mike, Seth's dad.

The company offers and covers another growth hormone, referred to as GH, but with Seth's underlying condition of diabetes, the side effects from the medication could be life-threatening.

Ipsen, a pharmaceutical company, has been sending Seth's dosages of Increlex to the family at no charge. But FDA guidelines limit the dosages Ipsen is able to send to the family to eight, said Kim, Seth's mom.

The most recent shipment the Blake family received was the eighth dosage, which will last another week. Seth's Increlex has come to a halt until his case gets presented to a team at Ipsen and the team can figure out how to get approval to continue sending the medication.

Having received Seth's last dosage, the Blake family has been speaking with the insurance company through appeals, the Texas Board of Insurance and local and state representatives.

Another option for Seth to receive the medication is for Seth to acquire Medicaid, which covers Increlex, but the Blake family does not qualify for the program.

But if Seth's parents, Mike and Kim, were divorced, they might qualify.

"In a sick, perverse way, we could be looking at a divorce to take care of Seth," Mike said. "That's 29 years of marriage — but we're parents. What would you do?"

This all started in August 2011 when

Seth was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. The only indicator of something being wrong was his incredible thirst and sudden weight loss.

During one weekend, Seth lost 10 pounds. He drank 16 bottles of water that Sunday.

"I was scared (and) nervous," Seth said. "I was like, 'I'm really sick,' and I just felt not normal. I was really dehydrated, drinking constantly, going to the bathroom every five minutes. I just didn't feel right."

As concerned parents, Mike and Kim took Seth to the Grand Saline Clinic where Dr. Ronald Sherbert tested his blood sugar. Seth's blood sugar was 600 mg/dL. A normal blood sugar level for a 12-year-old child is about 70 to 150 mg/dL, according to livestrong.com.

Seth's parents took him to the only pediatric endocrinologist in the region, Dr. Luis Casas of Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. A pediatric endocrinologist is medical subspecialty dealing with physical growth and development in childhood, as well as diabetes and other disorders of the endocrine glands, according to Trinity Mother Frances' website.

Dr. Casas put Seth on an insulin IV because his blood sugar had spiked to 895 by the time they got him to the Tyler clinic.

"Most of the time, with kids that get this condition, they realize it because it's an ER visit. They are in some crisis where they either go into a coma or something like that which creates this emergency trauma," Mike said. "If it wasn't for our local doctor, Dr. Sherbert, I think if he just hadn't known enough instinctively to check that, later that day we could have some kind of real serious medical emergency."

Mike has created a YouTube channel for Seth's Increlex progress and information regarding the disease.

The petition may be viewed at change.org under the Economic Justice category.

"I just want my brother to have the same opportunities as everybody else," Morgan said. "I want him to be able to grow and play basketball, baseball, whatever he wants to do."

POLICE REPORTS

The Patriot Talon collected the following information from public reports released by the University Police Department and the Tyler Police Department. All police reports obtained by the Talon are public records as defined under Texas Open Records law.

MARCH 11

Attempted Burglary

University police were dispatched to the Ingenuity Center in reference to a damaged door.

a solicitor.

MARCH 6

Accident: Motor Vehicle

A vehicle backed into another vehicle. There was minor damage.

Public Intoxication

An intoxicated male was asleep at the wheel of his vehicle at the Food Fast Exxon near the University.

FEB. 24

Injured Person

A visiting spectator injured her ankle while walking down the bleachers at a softball game. She was taken to the hospital via ambulance with a possible broken ankle.

MARCH 8

Injured Person

A student was transported to the hospital via ambulance after being injured during a basketball game.

FEB. 22

Criminal Mischief

A student reported an act of criminal mischief to his vehicle in Lot 15 near Lake Drive.

Accident: Motor Vehicle

An unoccupied vehicle in Lot 3 rolled from a parking space and struck another unoccupied vehicle.

FEB. 23

Criminal Trespass

Three students were given criminal trespass warnings at University Pines Apartments.

Criminal Trespass

University police were dispatched to the nursing building and issued a criminal trespass warning to

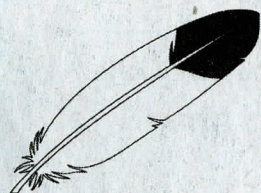
LOST AND FOUND

The university police have the following items in the lost and found department. All items will be held for 60 days after publication. To reclaim, call (903) 566-7060 and ask for lost and found, provide the item number and further description of the property.

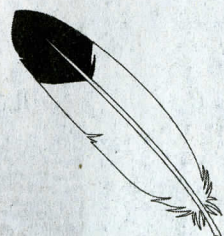
Item #	Received	Description
100000001046	12/19/12	Key and key ring
100000001045	12/19/12	AT&T cell phone
100000001044	12/18/12	Adaptor and charger
100000001036	12/18/12	Key
100000001032	12/18/12	Sunglasses
100000001033	12/18/12	Sunglasses
100000000991	11/8	Contact case
100000000994	11/8	ID card
A-1	12/1	ID card
100000001028	12/18	Earring



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March 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

DREAMGIRLS

March 26 @ 7:30 p.m.

LIBERTY HALL

APEX Presents The 39 Steps

March 21-23 @ 7:30 p.m.

Young Frankenstein

March 28 @ 7 p.m.

The Ten Commandments

March 30 @ 6 p.m.

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NEW MOVIES

Admission

March 22

Rated PG-13

Olympus Has Fallen

March 22

Rated R

Dead Man Down

March 8

Rated R

MUSIC RELEASES

I Am Empire

March 26

"Anchors"

One Republic

March 27

"Native"

'21 & Over' a fun, chaotic comedy

MOVIE REVIEW

SAMANTHA COPUS

To drink or not to drink? This is the question Jeff Chang poses on the eve of his 21st birthday.

"The Hangover" director Jon Lucas brings to the big screen a party movie featuring a crazy night of drinking. "21 and Over" is a film that covers every possible conflict a college student could encounter during a birthday celebration.

In contrast to "The Hangover," audiences will get to experience what the parties do throughout the night, though the similarities in Lucas' work are apparent with the use of a flashback of events.

Chang (Justin Chon) receives a visit from his two oldest best friends, Casey (Skylar Astin) and Miller (Miles Teller). They surprise him by showing up to his house to celebrate.

Since high school graduation, the boys have changed in drastic ways. Casey is de-

voted to college, and is more serious than Miller. Miller isn't the type to stay up all night cramming before a test.

Though pleased to see them, Chang tells his friends that he has no time to party because he has an important interview for medical school the next morning. His father will be immensely disappointed if Chang does not ace the interview and become accepted into medical school. Casey is understanding to Chang, but Miller is not willing to concede.

He tells Chang, "Though you look like a 9-year-old girl, you are now legal to get wasted."

Under the thumb of his controlling father, Chang has not had the chance to do what he truly wants to do. Now, with the words of Miller in his mind, he decides to go out for one beer with his friends. After a few hours of drinking at a college bar, that one beer has turned into many more.

Once the trio has thrown back quite a bit of alcohol, Miller and Chang start to play a game of darts. Miller starts to question the way Casey



TALON >> RELATIVITY MEDIA

has turned out since they last saw each other. While he believes Casey has become boring, Chang disagrees. During the disagreement, Chang looks away after throwing a dart at the target. Instead of landing on the board, the dart strikes through the cheek of a popular yell leader named Randy.

This is just the beginning of their troubles for the night. After Chang gets slammed with a bar stool, the guys flee

the bar only to find themselves bouncing from club to club. Chang is not able to hold the level of alcohol as well as his friends, so he passes out. This leaves Casey and Miller with no clue how to return Chang home.

Their mission to find Chang's house becomes a night of good and bad adventures.

Casey and Miller discover secrets about one another and their good friend Chang. Every stop leads to another mystery and another person to track down. The night is filled with twists and turns, and tons of beer.

The big question is, will Casey and Miller get Chang home on time to get a good rest before the interview? Or will the choice of having "just one beer," backfire on Chang and his future?

While this feature brought new faces to the scene, their performance did not reflect the title. The acting of the newbies was believable. This movie was a chance for the spotlight to shine upon Astin, Teller and Chon for the first time.

Though the trio have not experienced acting in such important roles, they lived up to the challenge of keeping the viewers attention.

Teller, who appeared in "Project X," is no stranger to portraying a character in a party film, although the other actors were. Miller's deliverance of his on-screen character made him the star of the film. He brought to life a guy whose blunt character charms the audience.

This movie had many moments that could be considered eccentric, but this added to the humorous drama of the storyline.

Lucas succeeded in bringing to the screen three college guys who prove to be the life of any party. His creative story was more intriguing than "The Hangover," because viewers are able to enjoy the film without the excessive use of repetitive flashbacks.

"21 and Over" was an excellent story that wrapped humor and friendship into one package. This movie allowed the audience to step into the lives of three friends who become like close brothers.

Celtic dancers take the Cowan Center stage



TALON >> PHOTOS BY REED CASTERLIN

Performers brought Celtic Fire to the Cowan Fine and Performings Arts Center stage on March 5. Celtic Fire is a live music and dance performance. The performance is anchored in the customs and ancient musical history of Ireland.



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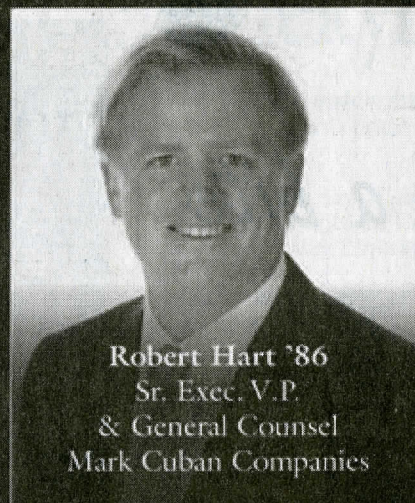
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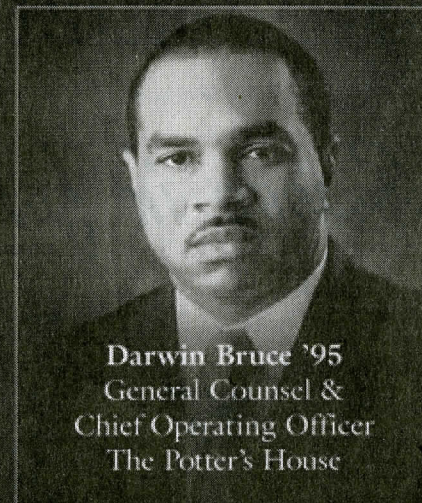
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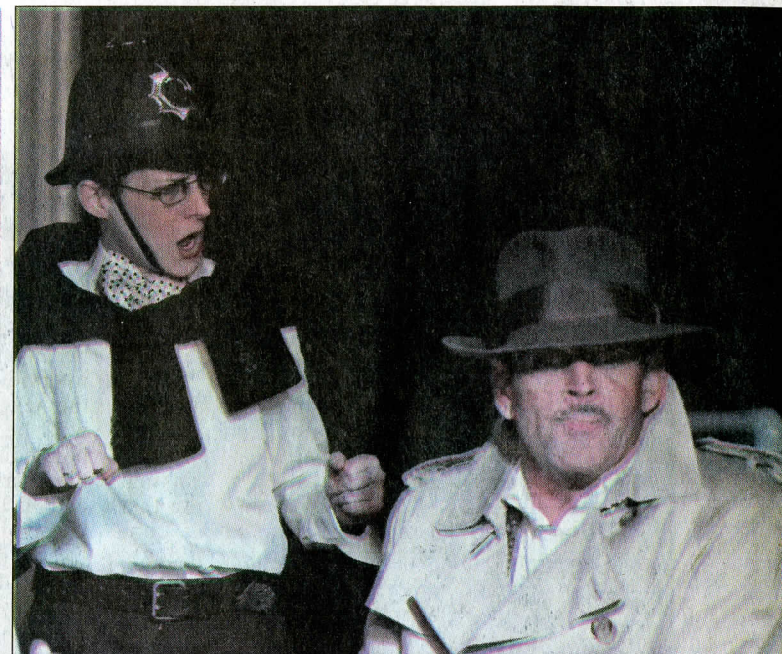
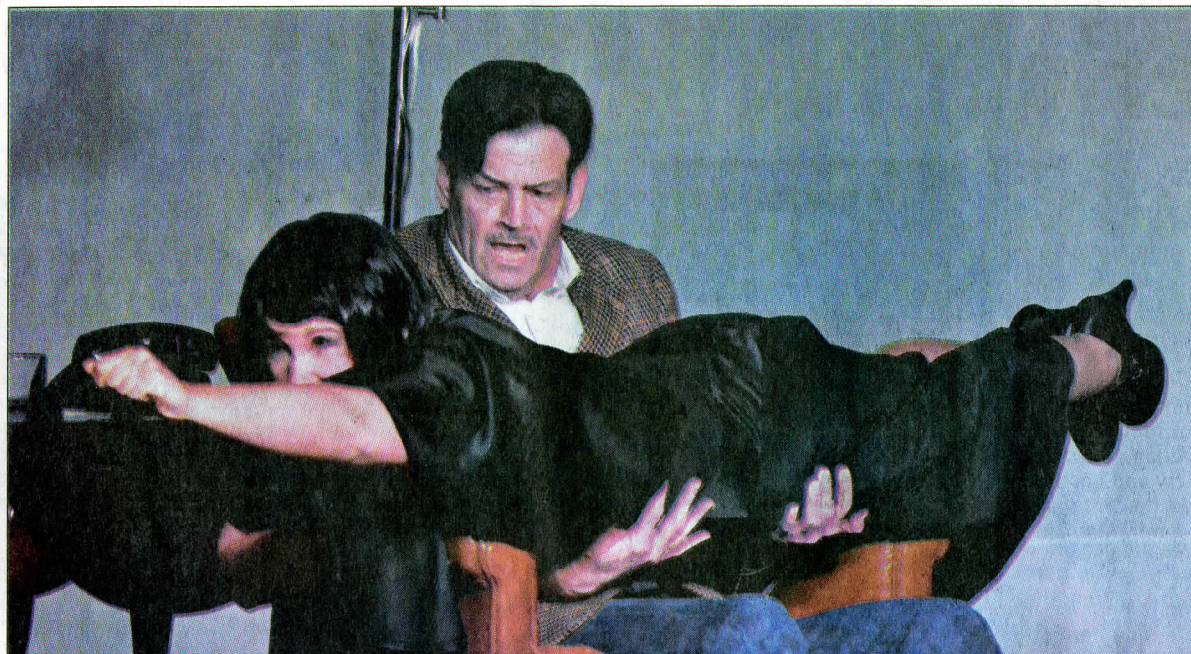
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TALON PHOTOS BY VICTOR TEXCUCANO

Top Left: Chris Abraham and Allison Pharr rehearse a scene from the upcoming production, "The 39 Steps," in the APEX theater on Thursday. Top Right: Hannah Morris joins Abraham in another scene.

APEX brings acting classes, performances to Tyler

Lauren Barnes
A&E Editor

The basement of the Energy Center Building has become the unlikely home to Tyler's newest acting school and arts venue.

Sitting off Front Street near downtown Tyler is the Actor's Preparatory Exchange, or APEX.

APEX is offering something new to Tyler in the form of professional acting classes in an intimate theater.

Chris Abraham, APEX executive producer, said he wants the theater to be a place that produces works that otherwise would not have been shown in Tyler.

"We're definitely not doing things that everyone else has done," Abraham said.

The Vagina Monologues, which ran for three nights in February, was an example of this. After sold out showings, Abraham realized APEX is what Tyler has needed.

"There is a large, niche audience who want to see things that aren't being presented in Tyler now," Abraham said. "Eighty percent of the people that come down to the theater, stop and say, 'Thank you, we needed something like this in Tyler.'"

Abraham said the theater has taken off quicker than anticipated.

"When we started this, it wasn't planned that we were going to produce something every month," Abraham said. "All of a sudden it's lined up, that in the first year of production, we'll have some new venue in here every month."

Upcoming show The 39 Steps

Liberty Hall, March 21 to 23
7:30 p.m.

About the show:

- ❑ Melodrama adaptation from the 1915 novel by John Buchan and the 1935 film by Alfred Hitchcock.
- ❑ Stage adaptation was written by Patrick Barlow and calls for four actors to perform the entirety of the 1935 film.
- ❑ The story follows the hero, Richard Hannay, played by Chris Abraham.
- ❑ University student Allison Pharr plays the three main female roles in the play.
- ❑ Hannah Morris and James McClane play every other character in the show, including heroes, villains, men, women, children and even inanimate objects.

Source: Playbill.com

Creative Director Felicity Enas said they plan to fill the calendar with their own productions, outside productions, film screening and workshops.

On March 8 and 9, APEX hosted the Austin-based Bottle Alley Theatre Company, which performed "The Ivy House."

"We want new theatre to have a place here as well," Abraham said.

APEX will screen "When I Rise" the last two weekends in April, as a part of the Austin Film Society, whose goal is to get new Texas films screened in theaters.

"We're excited to be a part of that because film is something else we're trying to do down here, as well as theater," Abraham said.

Along with weekend events, APEX holds weekly acting classes.

"When we started, we had all sorts of ideas on how we were going to teach the classes, but it's all been changed to what people want and need," Abraham said.

Enas teaches stage acting every Thursday. The class is not continuous so she can accommodate all levels of experience.

Enas said her goal is to get her students prepared for professional auditions, so if they get a last-minute call, they are ready.

"The whole point of the Actors Preparatory Exchange is to keep them prepped and on their toes," Enas said.

Abraham said acting classes also are beneficial for those that don't necessarily want to be professional actors.

"We can teach you to act, but what I think what we do more is give you the experience to stand up on a stage and gain that confidence with what-

ever you want to do," Abraham said. "One of our students is a Tyler lawyer who wants to be more comfortable when standing in front of a jury."

Enas agreed with Abraham that her classes help build confidence for anyone looking to be in front of the public.

"It's overcoming that stage fright," Enas said. "It's something that really doesn't leave you."

Hannah Morris is the junior acting class (JAC) instructor. JAC is a 12-week course for 8- to 14-year-olds. The class meets once a week and has a showcase at the end.

Morris is an Emmy Award-winning actress who has grown up in the industry. Her father is a producer who has won five Emmy Awards.

"She has a terrific rapport with young people," Enas said.

Abraham said Morris is an instrumental part of the theater.

"She's very much a part of our whole decision making process," Abraham said.

Olivia Hardt teaches on-camera acting, which begins today. The class is also ongoing, so anyone is welcome to attend.

Hardt has been working in the industry for 10 years and will bring her knowledge of real-world acting and auditions to her students.

Abraham said he also plans to begin a series of improv classes soon.

He said he made the spontaneous move to Los Angeles in 1987 to start his acting career. In 1990, he received his Screen Actor's Guild card.

Abraham worked as an actor until

2001, when he moved back to Texas to take care of his ill parents.

In 2007, he was talked into doing a play at the Tyler Civic Theatre.

"It rekindled the fire," Abraham said. "The light came on, and that feeling came back that I had not had in many, many years."

Abraham said that is where he met Enas. They were both a part of the Tyler Civic Theatre until 2010.

Abraham spent 2011 working in Southern Arkansas, and during that time, he and Enas began talking about opening their own theater.

APEX opened in October 2012.

"The amazing thing about this project is synergy," Abraham said. "Whenever we need something, it magically appears."

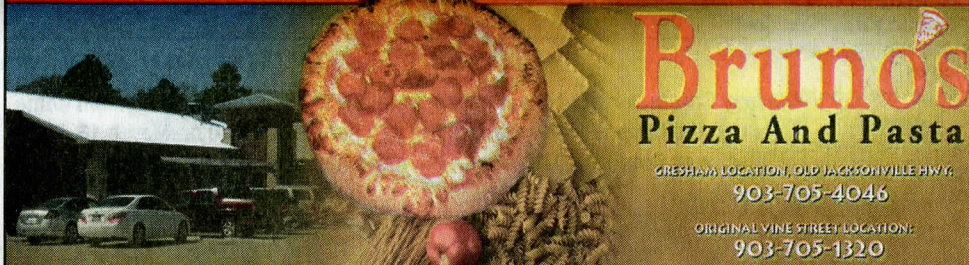
Abraham said the classes offer something groundbreaking for Tyler.

"We never set our theater up to be a community theater, we really want to be a professional theater," Abraham said. "We hope this grows, (to the point) where we are paying professional actors to come do performances down here."

Abraham said APEX has evolved and will continue to evolve with what the community wants.

"When we started, we had all sorts of ideas on how we were going to teach the classes, but it's all been changed to what people want and need," Abraham said.

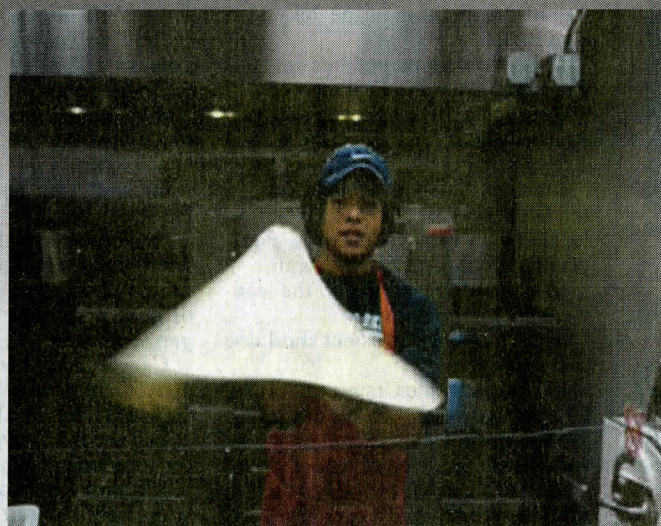
For additional information about class availability, as well as information on upcoming productions at APEX, visit www.apextheatre20.com.



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Freshman shortstop Raven Rodriguez advances on a LeTourneau error, scoring on the play. The Patriots won 8-0 and 15-0 in the doubleheader on March 16.

All-American Cronin earns hitting record; Patriots blast ASC opponents

Jake Waddingham
Sports Editor

Senior Joey Cronin's bases-clearing blast in the bottom of the third inning against LeTourneau on Saturday was the highlight of nine hits, three home runs and 12 runs scored in the inning.

The No. 3 Patriots completed the sweep, swatting the Yellowjackets 8-0 in the first game and 15-0 in the second to improve to 17-1 this season.

Cronin's grand slam, her 207th career hit, made her the all-time hit leader in Patriot history.

The home run was the 26th of Cronin's career and the four RBIs improved her total to 134.

Both rank third all-time for any Patriot.

"I was going for a line drive, just trying to see the ball well," Cronin said.

The Patriot offense has fueled this strong start to the 2013 season.

At the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Leadoff Classic in Columbus, Georgia, the team faced three ranked opponents and played six games in three days.

After three wins against Alma College, Washington University and Husson, the Patriots struggled against Illinois Wesleyan's ace pitcher, Molly

Team offensive leaders

Batting Average:	Runs Batted In:	Hits:
1. Joey Cronin .478	1. Ashley Endsley 26	1. Heather Abshire 24
2. Jackie Mendez .476	2. Heather Abshire 21	2. Raven Rodriguez 23
3. Heather Abshire .444	3. Brittney Batten 20	3. Joey Cronin 22

» Statistics through March 16 against LeTourneau

national champion, the Lutes of Pacific Lutheran. The No. 15 Lutes eliminated the Patriots from the regional tournament last season.

The Patriots took advantage of three walks and knocked in four runs on three straight singles to take a 5-1 advantage.

"We have a strong lineup," Cronin said. "We have a lot of depth one through nine, but we have several ready to pinch hit."

In the final game of the classic, the squad shut down No. 21 St. Thomas, scoring eight runs on fourteen hits.

Freshman Kelsie Batten picked up the win from the circle, allowing only four hits in the shutout.

The team returned home to begin

Heather Abshire earned the win from the circle and went 4-for-6 from the plate, driving in four RBIs and scoring two runs.

Teammate Raven Rodriguez went 3-for-5 in the first game with three RBIs and three runs scored.

In the LETU doubleheader, Rodriguez helped lead the offense again with five RBIs.

"We can't settle," Cronin said. "We are in a tough division; we can't get



RAVEN RODRIGUEZ



son, the Patriots struggled against Illinois Wesleyan's ace pitcher, Molly McReady.

The 3-0 loss, the Patriots first and only loss of the season, moved the team into a tough consolation bracket.

Their first opponent was last year's

four hits in the shutout.

The team returned home to begin play in the American Southwest Conference on March 13, taking on Mississippi College in a doubleheader.

The Patriot offense was impressive, scoring 23 runs in the two games.

"We can't settle," Cronin said. "We are in a tough division; we can't get too far ahead of ourselves."

The Patriots continue their home conference schedule, hosting ASC-rival Texas-Dallas, beginning at 4 p.m. on March 19.

TALON PHOTOS BY JAKE WADDINGHAM

Joey Cronin is met at the plate by the team to celebrate a grand slam home run in the bottom of the third inning against LeTourneau on March 16. The blast was Cronin's 207th career hit, a new record for the Patriots.

Tennis men jump to No. 10 after spring break victories

Jake Waddingham
Sports Editor

The men's tennis team made a huge jump in the national rankings after going 3-1 on their spring break tour in California.

The No. 10 Patriots defeated Pomona-Pitzer, Whitman and Carnegie-Mellon in a four-day span. Their only loss was to the No. 9 UC Santa Cruz Banana Slugs.

All of the Patriot's opponents were ranked in the top 20 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Top 30 poll.

The strong team performance helped Daniel Brown earn the title of American Southwest Conference East Division Player of the Week.

Brown, a transfer from Texas A&M, went 4-0 in No. 2 singles action and 3-1 in No. 1 doubles with his partner Ryan Ybarra to help propel the Patriots to their three victories.

In their matchup against Carnegie-Mellon, the Patriots had to rally back from a 3-0 deficit after falling in all three of their doubles matches.

"We have the potential to be really good," Kevin Singer said. "We have several areas we need to improve upon, especially doubles."

Ybarra and Brown both won in singles to close the gap to 3-2, but the Patriots still needed to win three of the four remaining matches.

Ramon Martinez came through in No. 3 singles, winning 6-2, 7-5. Teammate Ryan Spencer followed suit, taking No. 4 singles, 6-3, 6-1.

Tied at 4-4 after the Patriots fell in No. 6 singles, it was up to the senior, Singer, to seal the comeback.

"I was really determined to win," Singer said. "I tried to slow myself down and focus on winning point by point."

After falling in the first set, 1-6, Singer bounced back to win the next set 6-4 over Carnegie-Mellon's Kosuke Hasegawa, forcing a third set.

Singer clinched the comeback rally with a 6-2 win.



TALON PHOTO BY JAKE WADDINGHAM

Senior transfer Daniel Brown was the Southwest Conference East Division Player of the Week for his performance during the Patriots road series in California during spring break.

WOMEN

The women's trip to California was highlighted with a tough win over Cal Tech, 5-4.

The Patriots came out strong in doubles, taking two of the three matches for an early lead.

No. 3 singles player Jennifer Payne stepped up for the first win over Stephanie Kwan, 6-4, 6-2. Then it was the bottom of the Patriot lineup coming up clutch for the University.

No. 5 Janae Warren and No. 6 Emily Evans secured the two final wins to lock the Patriots victory over Cal Tech.

"I think Janae's win to clinch our win over Cal Tech was really important to pump us up for conference and the rest of the season," Amy Friesenhahn said.

The Patriot men and women continue their nonconference schedule on the road against Div. II McMurry in Wichita Falls on March 22.

They will be back in action in Tyler on March 29.

Freshman golfer leads women to finish 5th at Jekyll Invitational

Jake Waddingham
Sports Editor

tational in Bossier City, La.

MEN

Senior John Dukes shot a combined score of 230 and finished 45th.

In the team standings, the Patriots trailed by 45 strokes, finishing 16th.

The men improved six strokes on the second day of competition, moving to 13th place and 29 strokes off the leading team.

Nine of the top 25 teams teed off at the Jekyll Island Invite, including 12 of the top 25 individual golfers in the nation.

Dukes led the Patriots through the second round, firing a 76 in a tie for 26th.

Dayton Cargill's total of 154 put him in 53rd place.

Campbell said the cold, windy and wet conditions make the short game a challenge. He said the team focus will be successfully getting up and down when the guys miss greens.

On March 4, Joey Rippel led the University's golf squad to a second-place finish at the Mississippi College Invite.

He shot 157, good enough to tie for fourth place.

"We have to show these guys what to do," Rippel said. "We just have to show them it is still the game of golf, as long as we play our own games, that should cover the rest."

Cargill tied for 16th, shooting 161. Teammates Dukes and Alex Trivanovich both shot a 162.

Former ASC-rival McMurry won the tournament, shooting a 635.

McMurry now competes in Division II in the Heartland Conference.

Next, the men travel to McKinney, Texas, for the UTD Spring Classic on March 25.

"We play a lot of weeks in a row," Campbell said. "It is a schedule we are used to and have had success with."

On the final day of golf competition at the Jekyll Island Collegiate Invitational, Laura Lindsey combined for a 238, just 10 strokes off the leader.

The women placed fifth as a team in the field of 21. American Southwest Conference member Mary Hardin-Baylor won the event.



LAURA LINDSEY

Lindsey shot a 79 and the Patriots improved by 17 shots on the second day of competition at the Jekyll Island Invite.

Lindsey's score put her in 10th place going into the final day.

Teammate Taylor Sloane was two strokes behind Lindsey on the second day, improving to 28th.

Lindsey finished third overall at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor invite on Feb. 27 to aid the Patriots in a third-place finish overall.

She shot a 78 and trailed the leaders by only five strokes.

The tournament was cut short due to high winds.

Teammate Katie Crawford finished tied for sixth, firing an 80 for the day.

"We have four sophomores and two freshmen," head coach King Campbell said. "They all played in the fall. We are still expecting good things from them."

Campbell said the six girls that are on the team can all play well and just need more games under their belt to gain experience and confidence.

The women are in action on March 25 at the Centenary-Hal Sutton Invi-

SCORE BOARD

BASEBALL

March 6 @Home	
UT Tyler	2
Texas College	3
March 8 @Home	
UT Tyler	7
Miss. College	1
March 9 @Home	
UT Tyler	2, 7
Miss. College	1, 2
March 12 @Conway, Ark.	
UT Tyler	10
Hendrix	5
March 15 @Richardson, Texas	
UT Tyler	1
UT Dallas	2
March 16 @Richardson, Texas	
UT Tyler	5, 3
UT Dallas	1, 2
March 19 @Shreveport, La.	
6 p.m.	
UT Tyler	
LSU-Shreveport	

SOFTBALL

March 10 @NFCA Leadoff	
UT Tyler	5
Pacific Lutheran	1
March 10 @NFCA Leadoff	
UT Tyler	8
St. Thomas	0
March 13 @Home	
UT Tyler	11, 12
Miss. College	2, 3
March 16 @Home	
UT Tyler	8, 15
LeTourneau	0, 0
March 19 @Home	
4 p.m. & 6 p.m.	
UT Tyler	
UT Dallas	

MEN'S TENNIS

March 10 @Santa Cruz, Ca.	
UT Tyler	3
UC Santa Cruz	6
March 10 @Santa Cruz, Ca.	
UT Tyler	5
Whitman	4
March 13 @Santa Cruz, Ca.	
UT Tyler	5
Carnegie-Mellon	4
March 19 @San Antonio, Texas	
Noon	

»PATRIOT PROFILE: MIKE REED, HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

Coach Reed reaches milestone: 400 career wins



Patriot Profile will feature a different outstanding Patriot each issue, chosen by the Patriot Talon sports staff.

Coach: Mike Reed
Age: 38
Hometown: Clarksville, Texas

In his 12th season of coaching (nine with the Patriots), head coach Mike Reed earned his 400th career win when the No. 3 ranked Patriots defeated No. 21 St. Thomas at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Leadoff Classic in Georgia.

Q: What made you want to get into coaching? I played college baseball and had a passion for sports. My parents kept telling me I would coach.

Q: Why did you decide to come to UT Tyler? I remembered seeing the facility they were building online and I had received my master's degree from UT Tyler. I had always loved the city and the school. I've been

offered D-I coaching jobs, but my family loves it here.

Q: What factors does it take to build a program? Four hundred wins for me is a reflection of the great players that have come through our program. Part of winning is having the right environment. I have been blessed with some great assistant coaches.

Q: How has your family helped your head coaching career? I couldn't do it without my wife. With all the time I have to commit to workouts and travel, she has been a terrific mother and Tyler has been a great place for our family.

If you would like to nominate a Patriot for the next issue, email the sports editor at sports@patriottalon.com.

Track wins team titles at Randle Classic

Staff Reports

The Patriot men and women had a strong showing at the Marc Randle Classic, winning the team titles and taking several individual events.

Nick Huff and the distance crew started the meet with a sweep of the top three spots. Huff won the race in 15:52.26, followed by freshman Conner Benson and Junior Alex Wilson.

"The competition in racing is more mature (than high school) in that we have more strength in the later stages of the race and more knowledge about pace," Benson said.

Markert agreed that the longer race distances and higher competition levels makes racing in college much different than high school.

Huff also held on to win the 1500-meter run later in the meet in 4:08.

Ford Noack also was a two-event

champion for the Patriots. He pulled away from the field early to win the 800-meter run in 1:55.66. He also anchored the 4x400 relay to a victory.

"As a distance runner, we will begin to focus more on speed work instead of distance," Markert said.

Christian Kearney led the jumpers with a victory in the triple jump, sailing 12.28 meters.

For the women, dual-sport athlete Maci Lott won the women's high jump, clearing the bar at 1.52 meters.

Kealey Gaffney and Madison Vrzaalik also scored 10 points each for the Patriots with their victories in their events, the 100-meter dash and pole vault.

In the throws, Rachel Shanks sent the discus 30.8 meters for another first-place finish.

The Patriots race, jump and throw next at The University of Texas at Arlington Invite on March 23.

Any athletes that secure a qualifying mark will compete in the Texas Relays in Austin on March 27.

"The team goal is to win conference and get a bunch of people to personal bests in their events," Benson said.



MACI LOTT



2013 NCAA Div. III outdoor qualifying list

400-Meter Hurdles

1. Preston Mizner, 54.74

800-Meter Run

5. Ford Noack, 1:55.66

3,000-Meter Steeple

8. Nick Huff, 10:11.75

5,000-Meter Run

4x400-Meter Relay

8. Texas-Tyler, 3:27.30

Shot Put

3. Buck Thompson, 53'6.5"

Javelin

7. Ed Palencia, 187' 9"

Discus

March 19 @San Antonio, Texas
Noon
UT Tyler
Johns Hopkins
March 22 @Wichita Falls, Texas
9 a.m. & 3 p.m.
UT Tyler
McMurry, Midwestern St.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

March 9 @Santa Cruz, Ca.
UT Tyler 3
UC Santa Cruz 6
March 11 @Claremont, Ca.
UT Tyler 0
Carnegie Mellon 9
March 11 @Anaheim, Ca.
UT Tyler 2
Champion 7
March 12 @Los Angeles, Ca.
UT Tyler 5
Cal Tech 4
March 13 @Claremont, Ca.
UT Tyler 2
Whitman 7
March 22 @Wichita Falls, Texas
9 a.m. & 3 p.m.
UT Tyler
McMurry, Midwestern St.

TRACK & FIELD

March 8 @Bullard, Texas.
UT Tyler Men
1st/5 teams
UT Tyler Women
1st/5 teams
March 23 @Arlington, Texas
10 a.m.
UT Arlington Invite

GOLF

March 4 @Clinton, Miss.
UT Tyler Men
2nd/17 teams
March 15 @Jekyll Island, Ga.
UT Tyler Men
16th/30 teams
March 25 @McKinney, Texas
8 a.m.
UT Tyler Men
Feb. 25 @ Killeen, Texas
UT Tyler Women
3rd/8 teams
March 15 @Jekyll Island, Ga.
UT Tyler Women
5th/21 teams
March 25 @Bossier City, La.
8 a.m.
UT Tyler Women

8. Nick Huff, 10:11.75

5,000-Meter Run

16. Matt Markert, 15:42
17. Conner Benson, 15:42

7. Ed Palencia, 187' 9"

Discus

2. Buck Thompson, 181'4"
12. Keiundas Wade, 139'0"

»Due to weather, most northern schools have not started outdoor competition



TALON »FILE PHOTO

Freshmen Conner Benson, left, and Matthew Markert battle down the home stretch during the East Texas Time Trials in the two-mile run on Feb. 22.

Patriots earn early lead in the ASC East

Jake Waddingham
Sports Editor

The No. 20 Patriots bounced back from a 2-1 loss to Texas-Dallas on March 15, winning the final two games of the series to take an early lead in the American Southwest Conference East Division.

Taking advantage of several Comet errors, the Patriots built a 3-0 lead in the first game of the March 16 doubleheader.

Jeff Kosta and Kevan House drove in two more runs in the fifth with a pair of doubles. UTD's rally in the sixth only managed to score one run.

Jordan Marah went seven innings in the victory, fanning eight batters. The Comets only run was unearned.

"The pitching staff is working together as best as it has in years," Senior Cody Jones said. "Chad Sherman has been working with every pitcher on helping develop each player's strengths and improving the weak links."

In the second game, House drove in the Patriots' first run with a single, scoring Sam Lane.

Isaac Tijerina scored on a fielder's choice in the fourth to increase the Patriots' lead to 2-0.

Chris Back added an insurance run on another fielder's choice. The Comet's rallied again, scoring two runs in the seventh, but Back's insurance run helped push the Patriots to the victory.

The Patriots are 17-5 overall this season with a 5-1 record in the ASC.

After sweeping the Clements Fluids Classic with four straight victories, Texas College snapped a five-game win streak.

Tied 2-2 going into the ninth, the Steers started the inning with a solo blast to take the late lead, shutting down the Patriots' final attempts at a comeback.

In another nonconference matchup, the Patriot bats found a second wind in the final two innings against Hendrix College, exploding for seven runs.

Justin Sheets earned the win in a relief effort.

Cayden Cuniff, T.J. Martin and Tijerina finished with three hits each.

"Coach keeps talking about how we have to stay consistent and repeat our performances," Jones said. "We



can't settle in and be complacent."

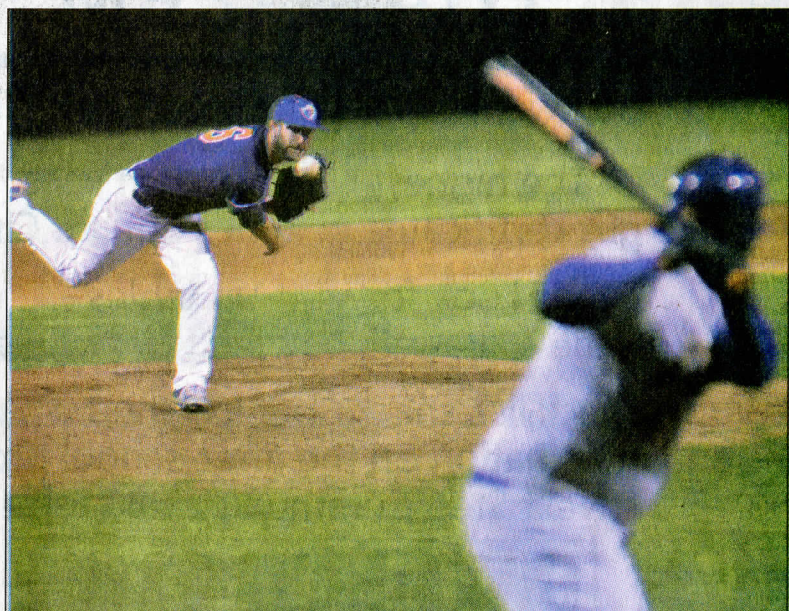
Next up for the Patriots is another nonconference game against LSU-Shreveport on March 19. The first pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Jones said the Patriots' next home game against ASC-rival East Texas Baptist University will be a good test for the team.

The games are March 22 and 23 at Irwin Field. It also is Alumni Appreciation day at the ballpark.

TALON »PHOTOS BY VICTOR TEXCUCANO

Above: Isaac Tijerina lays out and snags a line drive down the first-base line for an out against Texas College on March 6. **Right:** Joshua Holley fires in a pitch against Texas College on March 6 during a nonconference game.



For the love of turtles

Biology lecturer devotes career to teaching, field work

Nizia Alam
Contributing Writer

Jessica Coleman started her field biology career observing and prodding road kill.

At the time, she was an undergraduate student at the University and had been recruited by biology professor Neil Ford for a research project involving road mortality of reptiles and amphibians.

"I was basically walking a stretch of road twice a week catching anything I could catch," Coleman said.

Coleman originally was pre-med, but her focus shifted after taking upper-division courses. Her passion for field biology snowballed after starting the research project.

"I realized medicine wasn't what I was interested in anymore. It was being out in the field and working with snakes and even venomous ones that can kill me," Coleman said. "(Field biology) was more about what was causing the problem then it was about fixing it."

Coleman currently is a lecturer of general biology at the University. A visit to her office gives away one of her main interests. Turtle statues scatter the desk and shelves lined with thick biology books. There are ceramic turtles, stained glass turtles and a wooden turtle holding a fishing pole.

On the wall behind her desk is a Turtle Survival Alliance poster advertising their website turtle-survival.org. Coleman has been a member of the organization, which advocates for turtle conservation, for six years.

She has been studying turtles for 12 to 13 years since working on her master's thesis at the University, which explored the basking habits of map turtles along the Sabine River.

Coleman's weak spot for turtles has, on occasion, earned her a few names.

"My mom was following me home one day and there was this huge red-eared slider across the road and I thought I'll pull over and get this. Well, she passed me and



TALON» COURTESY PHOTOS

Top Left: As part of biology lecturer Jessica Coleman's research, her team lays down a fyke net in hopes of catching turtles. **Top Right:** Coleman demonstrates the use of a caliper on March 6. **Right:** Coleman brings in the fyke net at the Sabine River to get the basking turtles she caught when she was working on her master's thesis.

didn't realize it was me," Coleman said. "Later she was like, 'Did you see that idiot that was on the side of the road with the turtle?' And I said, 'I was that idiot.'"

Every summer her family would drive nearly 13 hours to Iowa to visit her grandparents, who lived on a farm.

She would fish, drive the tractor, walk the fence line and chase the cow back into the barn.

She recalls how she used to attach lizards to her ears to act as earrings and how she would box with her neighbor. She wasn't your typical girl and admits she still isn't.

"I think that rolled over into me being a field biologist who's still going out there and rolling in the dirt and having fun with it," Coleman said. "And that's the beauty about being a biologist — you never really have to grow up."

Coleman admits she has put herself in a lot of weird and even dangerous situations in the name of science.

"I was lying down to take pictures of some frogs and I look over and I'm this close to a cottonmouth. I slowly roll away and try to take a picture of the cottonmouth of course," Coleman said.

Once, Coleman decided to stop and play with a snake while doing a vegetation action survey at Fort Walters in Mineral Wells.

"I was by myself about five miles in the middle of the woods and found a 5- to 6-foot western diamondback rattlesnake and I thought ... I'm gonna catch it," Coleman said. "So I caught it. So I have some tongs and I caught it mid-body and it swung back around and was that close to my foot."

When she was walking in a wildlife management area near Lindale for her thesis, she even stumbled across a pack of pigs.

"I think they were just as scared as I was. So they take off running and I take off running and I'm throwing all my equipment at them yelling 'leave me alone,'" Coleman said.

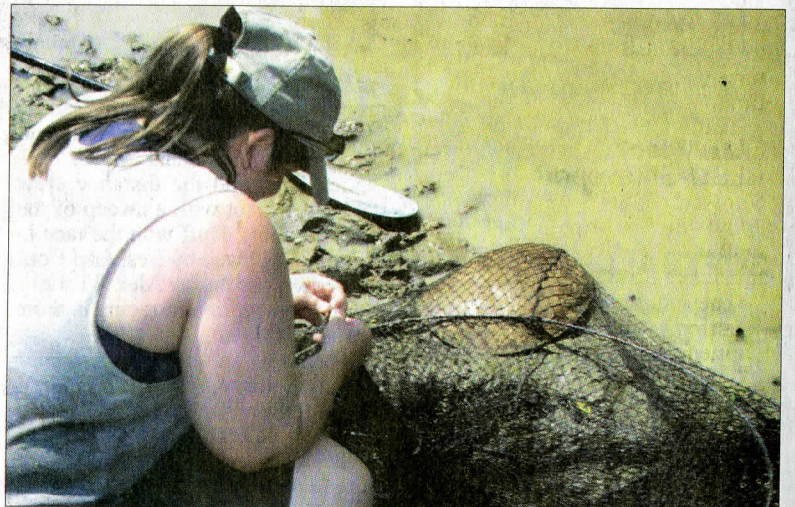
Coleman believes working in a lab is too ordinary.

Working in the field, exploring nature and even encountering situations such as wild pigs running after you is part of the excitement of her field.

"It's kind of an adrenaline thing. It's the adrenaline of going out there and finding new stuff and being active and having fun. You



TALON» PHOTO BY NIZIA ALAM



never know what you're gonna find," Coleman said. "And that's the beauty of being a field biologist — it's always changing. Every time you go out, your habitat might be different."

From her grandmother, Coleman inherited a little pinky on each hand. It's a genetic trait that skips a generation. But, she admits it has never set her back. She just modifies and does everything with her four fingers. When picking up a bottle, she demonstrates looking proper with her tiny pinky stuck out.

"To me it's cool and unique. And that's kind of my personality," Coleman said.

In fact, Coleman has used her genetic mutation to her advantage in her general biology class.

"I think of it as a really good example of genetics," Coleman said. "I can pull that personal story into how the role of genetics plays in a

population or a family to my students"

Coleman has a project with associate biology professor James Koukl about the community ecology of semi-aquatic turtles on two adjacent campus ponds at the University.

Koukl, who teaches physiology at the University, has known Coleman since she was an undergraduate and a student in his class.

He has been working in the field and in the lab with Coleman on turtle research.

"She's just a go-getter. She's not afraid of anything," Koukl said. "Though, sometimes I question her sanity of walking through thick weeds in the Sabine River knowing there are cottonmouths."

Koukl explains that the research they conduct is not for everybody.

"It's not everybody that's cut out to work in a mosquito- and snake-infested area to trap turtles," Koukl said.



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Huzzah!

Fair brings historic Europe to Texas

Lauren Barnes
A&E Editor

By taking a short drive down Texas Highway 110, you will take a step back in history with a European-themed Renaissance festival.

Four Winds Renaissance Faire has returned to East Texas for the 19th year.

"With the Renaissance fair, it's kind of like a European vacation," CEO Dustin Stephens said. "It allows people to step out of the 21st century and go back to a simpler time."

The festival offers an array of daily events, such as Captain Thom Bedlam's Magic Show, DeWitt's "Punch & Judy" Show, Cirque Du Sewer Rat Circus, belly dancers, musical acts and more.

The main attraction is the jousting competition, which happens twice daily.

"What we do is an actual competition," Stephens said. "You won't see anyone fall off the horse unless they get knocked off."

John Young, also known by his festival name Sir Jonathan the Younger, has been jousting with the festival for two years. However, he has been riding horses his whole life.

"Dustin (Stephens) taught me everything I know (about

riding a horse in a jousting style," Young said.

Young said he enjoys jousting for multiple reasons.

"I enjoy doing it for the kids," Young said. "I'm also a competitive person, if you do better than me, then I'll bust mine (butt) to beat you."

Young has plans to continue being a part of Four Winds.

"I will be here for a very, very long time," Young said. "It's like your childhood home. It's like a little community."

Along with the various activities, the fair has novelty shops, a coffee shop and food vendors.

Stephens said he decided to open Four Winds Renaissance Faire in 1994 after being a part of the Texas Renaissance Festival and Scarborough Renaissance Festival.

Stephens started jousting as a young boy. He mentioned the reasons he was drawn to jousting.

"I had nothing to do but ride horses, but I didn't want to do the rodeo thing," Stephens said. "I wanted to do something different."

The festival will be held every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. until April 21. For more information, go to <http://www.fourwindsfaire.com>.



Upcoming events

These are the themed weekends for the Four Winds Renaissance Faire, located on County Road 2138 in Troup

March 23 - 24	Tolkien Fantasy Weekend
March 30	All Fools Sixth Annual Masquerade Ball
March 31	Easter Service Easter Egg Hunt
April 6 - 7	Canterbury Tales Weekend
April 13 - 14	Celtic Music Fest
April 20 - 21	Knights and Chivalry Weekend



TALON PHOTOS BY VICTOR TEXCUCANO

Top: The knight Don Federico prepares his horse for competition on March 2 at Four Winds Renaissance Faire. **Above:** Dustin Stephens rides his horse around the Four Winds arena. **Far Left:** Anthony Eikner, 8, is knighted by Stephens. **Near Left:** Sir Jonathan the Younger feeds the apple he just stabbed with his sword to fellow knight Stephen Blackthorne.



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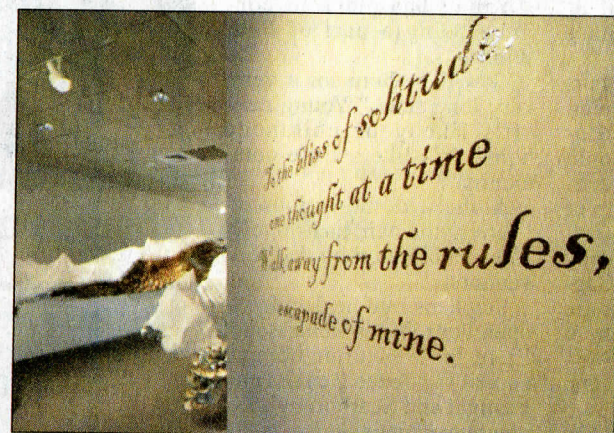
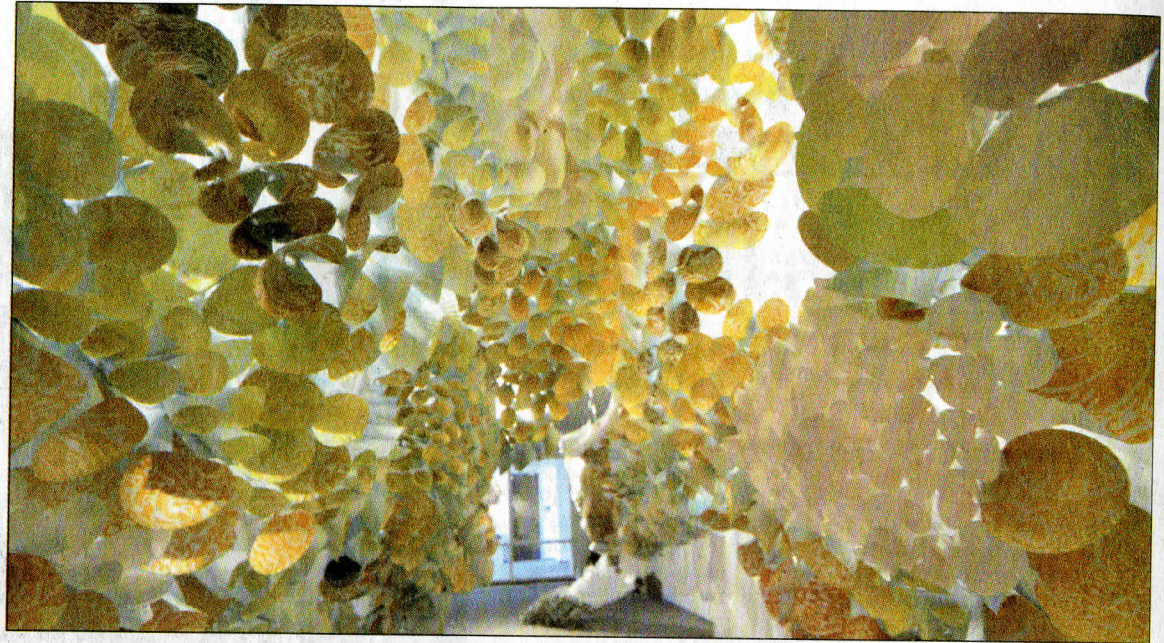
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Spiritual Expression

Art major uses more than 6,000 paper plates for thesis project

Right: Graduate art student Abhidnya "Abhi" Ghuge finished her senior thesis exhibition on Thursday as part of her "Home" collection. Her art is on display in the Meadows Gallery until March 29. **Below:** This is a site-specific installation with a earthly color palette that fades into white for the pureness of the home.



Middle: To print on the paper plates, Ghuge hand-carves her design on wood and then paints it to transfer the image. **Near Left:** All the materials in Ghuge's art originally were intended to be disposable. She uses these materials to make something meaningful for her audience.

Leadership society reaches out to campus community

Daniel Cebula
Staff Writer

The National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi) offers students volunteering opportunities as a means to gain experience and serve the community, including several in the coming months.

The upcoming service events are a way for students to connect with each other while doing something that will help other people, said Chase Ragland, the society's adviser.

The events include volunteering at the East Texas Food Bank from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. on March 28 and a United Service Organization event and military appreciation game day scheduled in April.

Ragland said the USO event and military game day still are in the planning stages but will give students a chance to show apprecia-

tion for service members both in the community and on campus.

"This is a chance for members of the organization to meet one another as well as gain service hours," Ragland said. "Even if you are not a member of Sigma Alpha Pi, you are more than welcome to join."

The East Texas Food Bank organizes volunteers regularly and assigns them tasks depending on what the bank needs at the time, said Tim Butler, volunteer coordinator at the East Texas Food Bank.

Volunteers may sort through donated items to search for leakages or exposures, as well as categorize the items for orders. They also may help with a range of community services such as the Backpack Program, which provides weekend meals to children, and Senior Servings, which provides meal assistance to seniors.

"The schools help them by either providing free breakfasts or lunch,

but (some children) have nothing to eat during the weekend," Butler said. "In your own backyard, there are people who need help. One in four kids here in Tyler is at risk of hunger and there is a lot of need."

The East Texas Food Bank is the sixth largest food bank in Texas, managing 12,000 pounds of retail donations each day and feeding more than 1,900 people each month, Butler said.

"It would be impossible to reach that amount without volunteers," Butler said.

In addition, the society is planning an "adopt-a-highway" project within the next semester, said Brian Hays, the president of the society. He said these events reflect the society's mission to get its members active within the community, both in service and to build their own skills and networks.

"So it really helps to just get peo-

ple out there, especially freshmen and transfer students who don't necessarily have a network here in Tyler and allow them to meet members of the community," Hays said. "Any way for them to improve their network, improve their grades and leadership qualities in any way, that's what the society is all about."

Rather than basing membership on GPA, the society focuses on providing members with resources to build leadership qualities and develop goals for themselves, said Christina Gibson, secretary for the society.

The society provides members with motivational broadcasts and chances to meet with each other in groups as well as volunteering. She said membership involves a series of steps including an orientation day, a training day and a group meet in which joining members get to know one another and develop goals.

"Our goal is for members to achieve goals through becoming a better leader and a better student," Gibson said. "Service is important because that's what we're based on — bettering ourselves and helping others."

Hays said that while these are a few of the events the society is planning, there are others regularly suggested by its members elsewhere, and that while the two previous semesters focused on handling the large number of recruits, this semester is about planning community service events and volunteering.

"People, especially active members, are always coming up with different volunteering events," Hays said. "They've been very active, it's been crazy."

Students can learn more at society leadership.org, by contacting Ragland at (903) 566-7050 or Hays at brianhays15@gmail.com.



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